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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSF-01

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 USIA-06 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 /086 W
---------- 091406
R 272109Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6842

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, CA
SUBJECT: GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT

REF: OTTAWA 2394

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE JUNE 26 DURING HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD:

"MR. DAN MCKENZIE (WINNIPEG SOUTH CENTRE): MR. SPEAKER, MAY I DIRECT A QUESTION TO THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS? IN VIEW OF THE FALSE STATEMENTS MADE BY CONGRESSMAN WAYNE HAYS THIS TUESDAY IN WASHINGTON, TO THE EFFECT THAT CANADA'S OBJECTIONS TO THE GARRISON DIVERSION ARE NOT STRENUOUS AND THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WILL THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS NOW GET IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND REQUEST A MORATORIUM?

"HON. MITCHELL SHARP (ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS): MR. SPEAKER, IT WAS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THE FALSE IMPRESSION WHICH HAD BEEN CREATED BY CERTAIN PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE CANADIAN
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ATTITUDE THAT I ARRANGED FOR THE CANADIAN POSITION TO

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BE CONVEYED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH CONVEYED IT, IN TURN, TO THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. THAT IS THE DOCUMENT I TABLED IN THE HOUSE THE OTHER DAY.

"MR.MCKENZIE: A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, MR. SPEAKER. THAT DOCUMENT ARRIVED TOO LATE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE $13 MILLION PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON TUESDAY, IN WASHINGTON, FOR FURTHER WORK ON THE DIVERSION UNIT MUST NOW BE APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE. WILL THE MINISTER REQUEST THE SENATE NOT TO APPROVE THE FUNDS UNTIL ALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ARE COMPLETED?

"MR. SHARP: MR. SPEAKER, I DO NOT THINK THAT THE REPRESENTATIONS WHICH WE MADE ARRIVED TOO LATE. THEY WERE WELL KNOWN IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE REASON WE HAD THEM SENT SPECIFICALLY TO THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE WAS THAT A FALSE IMPRESSION HAD BEEN CREATED BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. I DO NOT THINK THERE IS MUCH MORE WE CAN DO TO INDICATE OUR VERY STRONG OPPOSITION; NOR CAN THERE BY ANY STRONGER ASSURANCE THAN WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION THAT IT WILL NOT, IN THIS UNDERTAKING, DO ANYTHING WHICH WILL DAMAGE THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT. IT IS AN UNQUALIFIED UNDERTAKING BY THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION AND I CAN THINK OF NOTHING STRONGER ON WHICH TO RELY."

2. COMMENT: PERSISTENT AND TOUGH QUESTIONING ON GARRISON PROJECT BY OPPOSITION IS OBVIOUSLY HAVING EFFECT AS GOC INCREASINGLY CITES ITS FAITH IN U.S. ASSURANCES AND ALLUDES TO PRESIDENTIAL AND OTHER STATEMENTS ON WHICH THAT FAITH IS BASED. BY DOING SO, IT COULD BE BUILDING A CASE TO RAISE ISSUE AGAIN AT HIGHEST LEVEL AND/OR TO BUILD DEFENSES BY CLAIMING THAT GOC WAS CONFIDENT U.S. WOULD NOT DO HARM TO CANADA SINCE ASSURANCES HAD COME FROM SUCH HIGH LEVELS. JOHNSON

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